

REFERENCES

- BEDDARD, F. E. (1900) : A Book of Whales. pp. 320, illust. London.
- BLAINVILLE, H. M. DE (1817) : Nouv. Dict. Hist. Nat., 2nd ed., 9. Paris.
- BLANFORD, W. T. (1888-91) : Fauna Brit. India Series, Mammalia. pp. 617, Illust. London.
- GRAY, J. F. (1846) : On Cetacean Animals. Zool. 'Erebrus and Terror', p. 28, pl. 6, figs. 1 and 2.
- FLOWER, W. H. (1872) : On Recent Ziphioid Whales, with a description of the skeleton of *Berardius arnouxii*. Trans. Zool. Soc. Lond. 8 : 203-234, pls. 27, 28.
- (1878) : A further contribution to the knowledge of existing ziphioid whales : genus *Mesoplodon*. Trans. Zool. Soc. Lond. 10 (11) : 415-437, pls. 71-73.
- LONGMAN, H. A. (1926) : New Records of Cetacea, with a list of the Queensland species. Mem. Qnl. Mus. 8 : 266-278, pls.
- NORMAN, J. R. & FRASER, F. C. (1937) : Giant Fishes, Whales and Dolphins. pp. 361, illust. London.
- RAVEN, R. C. (1942) : On the structure of *Mesoplodon densirostris*, a rare beaked whale. Bull. Am. Mus. Nat. Hist. 80 : 23-50, figs. 1-36.
- TRUE, F. W. (1910) : An account of the beaked whales of the family Ziphiidae in the collection of the United States National Museum, with remarks on some specimens in other American Museums. Bull. U. S. Nat. Mus. 73 : 1-89, pls. 1-41.

6. OCCURRENCE OF THE WHITERUMPED SWIFT [*APUS PACIFICUS* (LATHAM)] AT HINGOLGADH, JASDAN, GUJARAT

On 25 August 1963 while watching the small flock of House Swifts (*Apus affinis*) which are always wheeling about this ancient fort on a hill which is over a 1000 feet high and rises out conspicuously from the surrounding low hills and plain, I saw a single Whiterumped Swift. This bird wheeled about at great speed for a few minutes before disappearing again. I can trace no previous record of its occurrence in Gujarat.

THE PALACE,

JASDAN,

August 27, 1963.

YUVRAJ SHIVRAJKUMAR

7. OCCURRENCE OF THE LARGE WHITERUMPED SWIFT [*APUS PACIFICUS LEUCONYX* (BLYTH)] IN BOMBAY

On 11 November 1957, Bombay city was threatened by a storm which failed to show up, but two swifts *Apus pacificus* and *Apus affinis* were blown into houses facing the sea at Walkeshwar and Colaba respectively. The Regional Meteorological Centre stated that the storm initially formed as a depression in the south-east Arabian Sea and moved in a north-north-easterly direction. The birds were sent to Br. A. Navarro of St. Xavier's High School, who in his turn

forwarded them to the Bombay Natural History Society for subspecific identification. Both the birds were new to Bombay and, owing to lack of suitable material here, were sent to the British Museum (Natural History) where Mr. J. C. Macdonald identified the former as *Apus pacificus leuconyx* (Blyth). Though Ripley (SYNOPSIS : 210) refers to the occurrence of this race 'south in winter to Bombay, Hyderabad, Kanara, Malabar (once) and possibly Madras', it may be worthwhile drawing attention to the fact that no one appears to have recorded it in peninsular India after Davidson (1898, *J. Bombay nat. Hist. Soc.* 12 : 47-48) who said 'this is the common Kanara swift . . . it appears in large flocks occasionally at Karwar during the rains and all along the coast it may be found in the cold weather'.

With the recognition of *kanoi* (Yamashina) in 1942, we have no specimen from India or Burma in the Bombay collection which can be said to be typical *pacificus*, which according to Deignan (1956, *Bull. Raffles Museum* 27 : 147-148) has a white rump averaging 20 mm. in breadth. Perhaps, it may be worthwhile ascertaining if typical *pacificus* has a place in the Indian avifauna. Dr. Charles Vaurie in a letter dated 27 March 1962 very kindly gave me the following wing measurements which may be worth recording.

10 males of *leuconyx*: 155-171, avg. 158.5 mm.

10 males of *kanoi*: 176-188, avg. 181.6 mm.

The present specimen B.N.H.S. No. 20055 is a female with the wing measuring 158 mm. and the white of the rump 13 mm. broad. In spite of the name the claws are not white.

Mr. Macdonald was unable to identify the other swift racially, but I have had opportunity of comparing it with fresh material and a separate note on the races of *Apus affinis* is under preparation.

I must draw attention to the paucity of bird skins available for comparison and work in Bombay. While our collection is among the best in the country, it is not sufficiently representative and large gaps become apparent as soon as one attempts subspecific identification. Regional collections were made either by the Society or with its collaboration during the pre-war years, but the taxonomic work was carried out abroad and the type specimens and others of particular interest were retained by the workers or by the British Museum. I have no statistical information but have gained the impression that many of the key specimens referred to in relevant literature are not available here. The last word regarding the taxonomy of Indian birds has not yet been said and I hope it will be possible, with the assistance of members resident in different parts of the country, to build up a really representative collection within a reasonable time so that the